

An official traveling exhibit from the U.S. Library of Congress in Washington, DC will make a stop in Daphne, Alabama this week, Congressman Jo Bonner, R-Alabama, announced.

A Library of Congress traveling exhibition including facsimiles of many of the Library of Congress' treasures as well as displays about the library's millions of resources will be visiting the Daphne Public Library March 11 and 12, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Daphne Public Library is located at 2607 U.S. Highway 98 and Whispering Pines Road in Daphne.

The traveling exhibit is free of charge and open to the public.

The Library of Congress exhibit is housed aboard an 18-wheel trailer truck which is currently traveling across America, making 60 stops in the Midwest and the South, including two in Alabama.

Visitors enter the exhibit from a central staircase to find several areas of museum-style displays, among them, computer terminals featuring Library of Congress websites including the main site, www.loc.gov and the Center for the Book/Literacy Programs site www.read.gov and sites pertaining to U.S. collections, exhibitions and a special site for use by teachers.

The exhibition also outlines the history of the Library, featuring Thomas Jefferson's role in

allowing its re-establishment following the burning of the U.S. Capitol in 1814 by providing his personal book collection to the nation. Jefferson's organization of his books by "Memory, Reason and Imagination" informs the organization of the exhibition, which presents facsimiles of such treasures as the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word "America"); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, in Thomas Jefferson's hand with edits by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams; the original 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spiderman to the world; the handwritten manuscript to jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton's "Frog-i-More Rag"; and Walt Whitman's poem "Leaves of Grass."

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs and exhibitions.

For more information, please contact the Daphne Public Library at 251-621-2818.